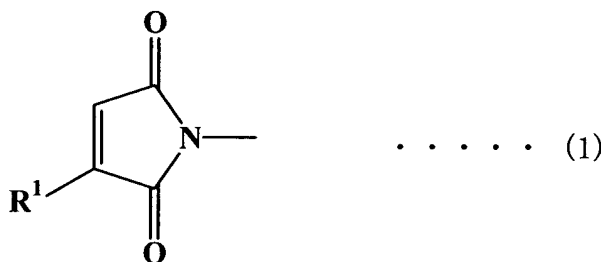


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces any and all prior claim lists.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, comprising a compound which has two or more maleimide groups represented by the following formula (1) and is liquid at ordinary temperature:



where in formula (1), R¹ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group or a halogen atom, and wherein said compound has a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 20,000.

Claim 2 (original). A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, according to claim 1, in which said compound is a compound having a polyester skeleton.

Claim 3 (original). A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, according to claim 2, in which said compound is one or more selected from the compounds described in the following (1) to (3):

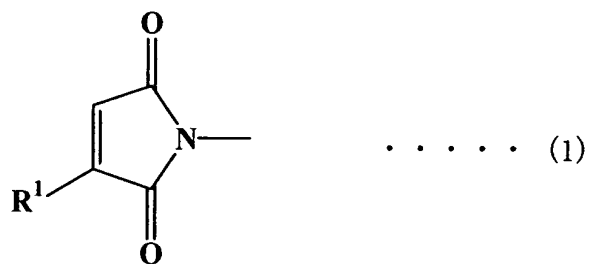
(1) an addition reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more isocyanate groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group;

(2) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more carboxyl groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group; and

(3) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more hydroxy groups at terminals thereof and a carboxylic acid having a maleimide group.

Claim 4 canceled.

Claim 5 (currently amended). A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, comprising a substrate and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed on the substrate by coating onto the substrate a pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, and irradiating said coating with an active energy beam to crosslink or cure said coating, in which said pressure-sensitive adhesive comprises a compound which has two or more maleimide groups represented by the following formula (1) and is liquid at ordinary temperature:



where in formula (1), R¹ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group or a halogen atom, and wherein said compound has a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 20,000.

Claim 6 (previously presented). A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, according to claim 5, in which said compound is a compound having a polyester skeleton.

Claim 7 (previously presented). A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, according to claim 6, in which said compound is one or more selected from the compounds described in the following (1) to (3):

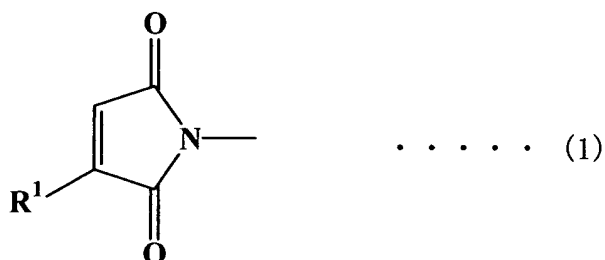
(1) an addition reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more isocyanate groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group;

(2) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more carboxyl groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group; and

(3) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more hydroxy groups at terminals thereof and a carboxylic acid having a maleimide group.

Claim 8 canceled.

Claim 9 (withdrawn). A method for bonding articles, which comprises coating an article with an active energy beam curable adhesive, irradiating the coated adhesive with an active energy beam to form a pressure sensitive adhesive layer on the article, and pressing another article onto the pressure sensitive adhesive layer, in which said active energy beam curable adhesive comprises a compound which has two or more maleimide groups represented by the following formula (1) and is liquid at ordinary temperature:



where in formula (1), R¹ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group or a halogen atom.

Claim 10 (withdrawn). The bonding method according to claim 9, in which said compound is a compound having a polyester skeleton.

Claim 11 (withdrawn). The bonding method according to claim 10, in which said compound is one or more selected from the compounds described in the following (1) to (3):

- (1) an addition reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more isocyanate groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group;
- (2) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more carboxyl groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group; and
- (3) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more hydroxyl groups at terminals thereof and a carboxylic acid having a maleimide group.

Claim 12 (withdrawn). The bonding method according to any one of claims 9 to 11, in which said compound is one having a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 20,000.